

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	17848	Agenda Number	35.
Meeting Date:	August 23, 2012			
Department:	Purchasing			
Subject				
Approve ratification of a contract with LUCIDITY CONSULTING GROUP, LP., to assist in the configuration, testing and implementation of a new utility rate structure for the City's newly deployed Customer Care and Billing System for Austin Energy in an estimated amount not to exceed \$400,000.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.				
Fiscal Note				
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.				
Purchasing Language:	Critical Business Need.			
Prior Council Action:	█			
For More Information:	Art Acuna, Senior Buyer / 512-322-6307			
Boards and Commission Action:	To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on August 20, 2012			
Related Items:	█			
MBE / WBE:	This contract was awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This was an emergency service contract; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.			

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin, doing business as Austin Energy (AE), seeks technical consulting and advisory services to assist Austin Energy (AE) in configuring, testing and implementing new utility rate change values, tiers, algorithms and other changes and revisions to its newly deployed Customer Care and Billing System (CC&B) software. The new rate change implementation is required by Ordinance No. 20120607-055 to be fully functional and live in production by October 1, 2012.

In order to implement the new rates, the new rate algorithms and tier structures need to be developed and integrated into the CC&B Oracle software engine. In addition to rate design, the utility is reducing the number of customer classes from over twenty to nine and the number of rates from 90 to approximately 30. Other changes include increasing the number of tiers, bill extractions and metering configurations. In order to have all these changes implemented in the required timeframe, it was necessary for AE to immediately engage a contractor to assist staff with the workload. Without these immediate services, AE would not be able to implement the Council approved utility rate increase in the required time.

Lucidity with its knowledge and experience of Oracle CCNB and IBM came recommended to the Utility. Austin Energy informally solicited several vendors; Lucidity was able to meet the City's deadline and requirements.